



# GOVERNOR'S STATE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

State of Montana

Brian Schweitzer, Governor

Issue 11

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## Montana Receives WIRED Grant

Governor Brian Schweitzer announced Montana has been awarded a \$15 million grant from the Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) Initiative. The grant was one of 13 awarded from 97 applicants nationwide.

"Economic development in central and eastern Montana is a priority," said Governor Schweitzer. "This grant will help get dollars on the

ground to help revitalize the economy with energy development while adding value to Montana's agricultural products."

The grant is set up to spur the evolution of Montana's workforce through the creation of innovative bio-lubricant and bio-product industry in central and eastern Montana. Such industry could include oilseed products and bio-diesel.

"This is another step for Montana is reducing our dependence on foreign oil," added Schweitzer.

The Governor selected the State Workforce Investment Board, in partnership with the Department of Labor and Industry to lead this project. For more information go to <http://boards.mt.gov/swib/> (Resources link).◇

## Desiree Taggart Memorial Awards

by Chris Wilhelm

### 2005 Awards Announced

The 2005 Desiree Taggart Memorial Awards for Workforce Development were presented at the SWIB meeting January 19, 2006. Commissioner Keith Kelly presented the awards on behalf of Governor Schweitzer. It was an honor to meet all of the nominees or their representatives. Thanks again, to the Selection Team and the Execu-

tive Committee for their time and effort.

"The values and abilities embraced by the Desiree Taggart awardees showcase the best of Montana's Workforce System," said SWIB Chairman Dan Miles.

### Call for 2006 Nominations

The SWIB is currently soliciting 2006 nominations for Montana workforce development organizations, businesses and individuals. Nominations are due to the SWIB by May 31, 2006, and should be mailed to the address on this newsletter. For information or a nomination form go to <http://boards.mt.gov/swib/> (Resources link).◇

## State Rate for Hotel Rooms

by Jessica Snyder

Members of the Montana State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB) are entitled to be reimbursed at the state rate for meals, lodging and transportation expenses while engaged in official Board business. State rates for lodging have changed since the Board last met. For Helena, the rates are \$64.00 February through September and \$60.00 October through

January. An updated Travel Reimbursement Guide will be distributed.

Staff will have a block of rooms available at a hotel in the city where the meeting is scheduled. You will be notified of which hotel. When making your reservations ask for the State Workforce Investment Board block of

rooms. If you choose to stay at another hotel, please ask for the state per diem rate, as this is all we are allowed to reimburse.

If you have questions or need assistance regarding sleeping rooms and locations please feel free to contact Jessica Snyder at 406-444-2607 or [jessicasnyder@mt.gov](mailto:jessicasnyder@mt.gov). ◇

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### Upcoming Events:

#### February 20

President's Day  
State offices will be closed

#### February 24-26

NGA Chairs/Staff Meeting  
Winter Meeting  
Washington DC

#### February 26

National Assoc. of Workforce Boards (NAWB)  
Forum 2006  
Washington DC

#### February 27—March 1

National Assoc. of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA)  
Winter Policy Forum  
Washington DC

#### March 8

One-Stop Development Committee  
9:00 AM Conference Call  
Helena State Capitol, Room 317

#### March 9

Workforce System Committee  
1:00 PM, Conference Call  
Helena State Capitol, Room 152

#### March 16

Apprenticeship Committee  
10:00 AM, Helena, Jorgenson's, Room 156

#### Mar 27—28

Technical Assistance Training (TAT)  
Billings—Billings Hotel Convention Center

#### Mar 30—31

Technical Assistance Training (TAT)  
Missoula—Grant Creek Inn

#### May 11—12

SWIB  
Helena—TBD

#### July 11—13

Workforce Innovations 2006  
Annual Conference

Welcome SWIB's newest members the next time you see them!

Georgia Gibbs-Atkinson

Thomas McKenna

## Committee Updates

Greetings! The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you up to date on what is happening with the Board, each committee and the WIA Unit between meetings. No publication will be longer than two pages. It will be published monthly, but can change to accommodate the Board's needs.

All committees have now met. Each has adopted their mission statements and goals. These can be viewed on the SWIB website at <http://boards.mt.gov/swib/> (Committees link).

### Apprenticeship Advisory

At the January 9, 2006 meeting, the committee adopted its mission statement and goals. Mark Maki presented a history of apprenticeship and discussed where apprenticeship is today.

Members of the Committee and Dan Miles attended a Business-Labor-Education meeting on January 31, 2006, to help develop an articulation agreement. Nancy Mason, the guest speaker,

shared what Washington State's apprenticeship program has in place to foster linkages between the business, labor and education communities. There was a commitment by all parties present to develop the articulation agreement. The Committee and Board's exact roles have not yet been finalized.

### Economic Development and Business Retention

At the January 19, 2006 meeting, the committee reviewed past projects. Additional information regarding those past projects has been requested for the next meeting.

### Executive

January 10, 2006, a meeting was held to determine Desiree Taggart Memorial Award recommendations.

### One-Stop Development

Several projects were adopted by this committee at their January 19, 2006 meeting. Those projects pertain to One-Stop Opera-

tor criteria, selection, and certification, the Butte consortium agreement, the RFP process, and a statewide MOU with mandatory partners.

### Workforce System

On January 19, 2006 this committee adopted the following projects:

- Determine how other states are performing and looking at the workforce system as a whole.
- Determine what Native American initiatives are being pursued in other states.
- Review what Montana's WIA funding was for the last 10 years. Examine the decrease in funds.
- Determine video conferencing capabilities for committee meetings.
- An update on the progress of the Integrated Performance Information (IPI) Project and the feasibility of Montana developing a Data Warehouse for tracking performance. ◇

## WIA Unit Update

by Kathy Yankoff

Request for Proposal (RFP): The RFP process has been postponed until next year for Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth programs. Current service providers for those programs will be kept in place until June 30, 2007.

WIA Policy Manual: A draft copy of the new WIA policy manual that consolidates the existing State and Local WIA policy manuals is posted on the Department's website at <http://wsd.dli.mt.gov/wia>. The manual will be available for review and comment through Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. Interested parties, particularly local WIA service providers, One-Stop operators and SWIB members are encouraged to

submit comments and questions about the draft manual to [wia@mt.gov](mailto:wia@mt.gov). After consideration of comments and questions, a final manual will be drafted. The new manual will be introduced to local WIA service providers as part of the technical assistance and training sessions the end of March.

Technical Assistance & Training (TAT) sessions for local WIA service providers are scheduled for the last week in March. The training is geared specifically to WIA line staff that work as case managers for participants enrolled in the Youth, Adult and Dislocated Worker programs. In addition to WIA Unit staff, the

training will include presenters from the U.S. Department of Labor and a panel of WIA peers from the Utah Department of Workforce Services. The East TAT Session will be in Billings on March 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. The West TAT Session will be in Missoula on March 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.

Monitoring: The WIA Unit is in the process of setting a monitoring schedule for this year that will include all WIA service providers. In following years, we expect to move to a 2-year cycle for official monitoring, with technical assistance visits to all service providers annually. ◇

## State Workforce Investment Board Members

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